

> probably not an issue (i.e., best fit is also best 5th %ile fit). But
> for Hyl biomass, we need to think more carefully about what distribution
> fits at the lower tail of the distribution. I think this is a valid
> approach that makes the best out of the available data. LWG's curve fit
> created a 5th %ile value that was quite a bit lower than the empirical
> numbers; I do not think that was the most appropriate representation of
> the data.

>
> Bob

>
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>
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>
> b Before printing, please think green.

>
> From: Blischke.Eric@epamail.epa.gov [Blischke.Eric@epamail.epa.gov]
> Sent: Monday, July 13, 2009 5:02 PM
> To: Robert Gensemer; Shephard.Burt@epamail.epa.gov; jay.field@noaa.gov;
> Goulet.Joe@epamail.epa.gov
> Cc: Humphrey.Chip@epamail.epa.gov
> Subject: Summary of Sediment Bioassay Interpretation Resolution

>
> As you are aware, we have been discussing some of the details of the
> LWG's interpretation of the Portland Harbor sediment bioassay results.
> Some elements of the interpretation were discussed during a conference
> call on Thursday, June 18, 2009.

>
> Here is where I believe we are:

>
> 1) No transcription errors were identified during a review of the
> reference envelope bioassay results.
> 2) The total biomass calculations were done correctly.
> 3) Mortality should be computed as test/control. This is consistent
> with Table 2-1 in the March 17, 2006 Bioassay Interpretation Report,
> ASTM Method E-1706, and EPA Guidance.
> 4) Duplicate reference envelope samples should be pooled (averaged)
> rather than treated as individual samples. This is consistent with
> February 15, 2008 problem formulation (Note: is this the correct
> reference? I could not find this in either the problem formulation nor
> the MacDonald benthic risk evaluation)
> 5) Identification of Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 thresholds: The
> toxicity thresholds should be calculated based on 10% of the reference
> envelope not an absolute 10%. This is consistent with Tables RE 1, RE-2
> and the text of EPA's March 31, 2009 direction on the Calculation and
> Use of Reference Envelope for Portland Harbor Sediment Toxicity Test
> Interpretation
> 6) Identification of the 5% of the reference envelope should be
> accomplished using a range of curve fitting procedures appropriate for
> the data set distribution. The curve fitting procedure with the best
> overall fit should be selected and the 5% calculated using the best fit
> curve fitting procedure.

>
> The above procedures for computing the results of the bioassay tests,
> calculating hit/no-hit designations, developing the reference envelope
> and identifying Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 toxicity hits should be
> followed.

>
> Please look this over and make sure it matches up with the recommended
> procedures. See also my note about the pooling of the reference
> duplicate samples. Once everyone agrees with the outlined procedures, I
> will send an email to the LWG summarizing this and recommending a
> conference call to discuss if there are any questions.

>
> Thanks, Eric

--
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